



USAID | MACEDONIA



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PRESS RELEASE

USAID supports the organization of the Corporate Social Responsibility National Awards

On May 20, 2009, the Coordinating Body on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), supported by the Ministry of Economy, and USAID's Business Environment Activity (BEA) and Civil Society Strengthening Project (CSSP), organized and presented the National Awards for CSR. The ceremony took place at the Parliamentary Club in Skopje.

Launched in 2007 for the first time, the awards recognize good CSR practices within the business community, demonstrating corporate commitment to goodwill, philanthropy and employee care. The competition was open to companies of any size. The Coordinating Body received 56 nominations for awards in five categories: ethical governance, relations with employees, relations with suppliers, donations to community and environmental protection. Nine companies were presented with CSR Award Statues for submitting the best CSR projects, while twenty-four companies shortlisted by the juries received recognition awards for their submitted projects.

Keynote speakers at the event included the Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Macedonia, Mr. Thomas Navratil; the Minister of Economy, Mr. Fatmir Besimi; and the President of the Coordinating Body on CSR, Mr. Goran Lazarevski.

"A modern, prosperous business community is a solid foundation for democracy. The businesses represented here today are leading the way in building a better future for Macedonia. I am impressed by their vision: they see the implementation of CSR codes as long-term investments. They have committed to incorporating ethical values and respect for society into their business practices," said Mr. Navratil at the Awards Ceremony.

One of USAID's objectives is to support practical and concrete implementation of the CSR concept in Macedonia. In order to ensure long-term competitiveness of the business environment and civil society involvement in CSR, USAID's projects are working to improve business governance and responsiveness to social and community issues.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.